

Surgical Microscope Arrangement

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a surgical microscope arrangement
5 including a surgical microscope having an objective for viewing
an object and having a device for detecting the spatial position
of points of the object.

Background of the Invention

A surgical microscope arrangement of the above type is
10 disclosed, for example, in United States Patent 5,999,837. In
this surgical microscope, the position of an object in the field
of view of the surgical microscope relative to the microscope can
be determined by detecting the position of the surgical
microscope relative to the operating room and by detecting the
15 position of the corresponding object relative to the operating
room, for example, with the aid of a pointer.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the invention to provide a surgical
microscope arrangement with which the detection of spatial
20 position can be carried out easily with greater accuracy while
being less susceptible to disturbances.

The surgical microscope arrangement of the invention
includes: a surgical microscope for viewing an object; the
surgical microscope having an objective defining an optical axis;
25 a device for detecting the spatial position of points on the
object; and, the device including first and second image sensor
units mounted on the surgical microscope so as to be mutually
separated at a predetermined distance.

The image sensors of the surgical microscope are arranged at
30 a spacing to each other. With these image sensors, the detection

of spatial position can take place directly from the stereo image pairs, which are detected by the two image sensors, via an evaluation method disclosed, for example, in German patent publication 3,720,019. In this way, the spatial position 5 relative to the surgical microscope can be detected with a lesser number of measurements as was required previously.

The problem of shading associated with the arrangement of United States Patent 5,999,837 between the image sensors and the object is considerably reduced with the surgical microscope 10 according to the invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will now be described with reference to the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic showing the surgical microscope 15 arrangement of the invention in use together with a surgical instrument; and,

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the surgical microscope of the surgical microscope arrangement of the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

FIG. 1 shows a surgical microscope 1 according to the 20 invention. A surgical instrument 2 is disposed in the field of view of the surgical microscope 1 and includes markers 3 to 9 configured as spherical reflectors.

The surgical microscope 1 includes an objective 12, 25 oculars 14 and 16 as well as image sensors 10 and 11 arranged next to the objective 12. The image sensors 10 and 11 can, for example, be configured as CCD arrays. The two image sensors 10 and 11 are arranged at a spacing from each other and with different alignment to each other for generating stereo image 30 pairs which can be evaluated with respect to coordinates.

The surgical microscope 1 furthermore includes imaging devices 13 and 15 configured as camera objectives. The imaging devices 13 and 15 image the objects in the field of view of the surgical microscope 1 and, for example, the markers 3 to 9 of the 5 surgical instrument onto the image sensors 10 and 11, respectively. Reference numeral 29 identifies the optical axis of image sensor 10 and reference numeral 31 identifies the optical axis of image sensor 11. Reference numeral 33 identifies the chief ray of the beam contributing to the imaging of the 10 marker 7 on the image sensor 10 and reference numeral 35 identifies the chief ray of the beam contributing to the imaging of the marker 7 on image sensor 11.

The images detected by the image sensors 10 and 11 are transmitted via a signal line 19 to an evaluation unit 21. From 15 these images, the evaluation unit 21 determines the position coordinates of the markers 3 to 9 in a coordinate system fixed by the arrangement of the image sensors 10 and 11 and referred thereby to the surgical microscope 1.

The surgical microscope of the invention can also be 20 equipped with three or more image sensors. Then, in lieu of an image pair, an image triple, et cetera, would be evaluated by the evaluation unit 21.

FIG. 2 shows the surgical microscope according to the invention in a perspective view. Elements corresponding to the 25 elements of the surgical microscope 1 of FIG. 1 have the same reference numeral increased by a factor of 100 in FIG. 2. Reference is made to FIG. 1 for the description of these elements.

In FIG. 2, it can be seen that the imaging devices 113 and 115 are arranged laterally to the object 112 and accommodate 30

the object 112 therebetween. For relatively low outer dimensions of the surgical microscope, this ensures a relatively large and therefore favorable stereo basis for the image evaluation of the stereo image pair.

5 It is understood that the foregoing description is that of the preferred embodiments of the invention and that various changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.